

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Pizza Party Politics: Comparative Powers for 5th Grade

Evaluate how different nations build their 'government recipes' by analyzing Switzerland's direct democracy and Japan's constitutional monarchy.

1. In Switzerland, citizens often vote directly on specific laws rather than just electing leaders. This 'direct democracy' component is most like which scenario?

Answer: B) The whole class voting on which topping to put on a pizza

Direct democracy involves citizens making decisions on policy firsthand, similar to a group vote on a specific choice like a pizza topping.

2. In Japan, the Emperor serves as a symbol of the state with no executive power, while the Diet (parliament) makes laws. This system is called a _____.

Answer: C) Constitutional Monarchy

A constitutional monarchy is a system where a monarch acts as head of state within the parameters of a constitution, while elected officials hold political power.

3. In a 'Unitary' system like Norway's, the central government has the power to create or abolish local government jurisdictions.

Answer: A) True

Unlike federal systems where power is shared, a unitary system centralizes authority, meaning the national government controls local divisions.

4. Mexico and the United States both use a 'Federal' system. What is the primary reason a large country might choose this structure?

Answer: B) To allow different regions to address local needs while staying one country

Federalism allows for a division of power where states or provinces can manage local issues while the federal government handles national concerns.

5. If a country's leader is chosen by the legislature (law-makers) rather than being elected directly by the people in a separate vote, that leader is usually a _____.

Answer: B) Prime Minister

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In parliamentary systems, the executive leader (Prime Minister) is typically a member of and chosen by the legislative branch.

6. An 'Oligarchy' is a type of government where a small, elite group of people holds all the power.

Answer: A) True

Oligarchies are defined by 'rule by the few,' where power is concentrated in the hands of a small segment of society, such as the wealthy or military elite.

7. Imagine a country where the government owns all newspapers and citizens are not allowed to protest. This is an example of which political concept?

Answer: C) Authoritarianism

Authoritarian systems feature strong central power and limited political freedoms, often involving censorship and restrictions on assembly.

8. The 'Rule of Law' means that in a democracy, _____ must follow the law.

Answer: C) Everyone, including leaders

The Rule of Law is a fundamental principle stating that law applies to everyone equally, preventing leaders from acting above the law.

9. Which of these is a key difference between a Republic (like Italy) and a Theocracy (like Vatican City)?

Answer: C) Theocracies base laws on religious doctrine, while Republics use civil law

A theocracy is a system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god, and laws are primarily religious.

10. In a 'Confederation,' the local/state governments hold more power than the central national government.

Answer: A) True

A confederation is a loose alliance of states where the central government is typically weak and only has powers granted by the member states.